

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**OCTOBER 26, 2021
1:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Sara Hannan, Chair
Senator Lora Reinbold, Vice Chair
Representative Matt Claman
Representative Bryce Edgmon
Representative Neal Foster
Representative Louise Stutes
Representative Chris Tuck
Senator Click Bishop
Senator Peter Micciche

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Tilton
Senator Hoffman
Senator Hughes (alternate)
Senator Shower
Senator Stedman
Senator Stevens

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER
APPROVAL OF AGENDA
APPROVAL OF MINUTES
COMMITTEE BUSINESS
OTHER COMMITTEE BUSINESS (EXECUTIVE SESSION)
ADJOURN

SPEAKER REGISTER

Megan Wallace, Legal Services Director, Legislative Affairs
Agency (LAA)
JC Kestel, Procurement Officer, LAA

[1:14:11 PM](#)

I. CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR HANNAN called the Legislative Council meeting to order at 1:14pm on October 26, 2021, in the House Finance Room 519.

Present at the call were: Representatives Claman, Edgmon, Foster, Hannan, Stutes, Tuck; Senators Bishop, Reinbold.

Senator Micciche joined at 1:25pm.

Members absent were: Representative Tilton; Senators Hoffman, Hughes (alternate), Shower, Stedman, Stevens.

Eight members present.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

[1:15:28 PM](#)

VICE CHAIR REINBOLD moved and asked unanimous consent that Legislative Council approve the agenda as presented.

CHAIR HANNAN, seeing no objections, approved the agenda.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 12, 2021, Meeting

B. May 14, 2021, Meeting

[1:15:45 PM](#)

VICE CHAIR REINBOLD moved and asked unanimous consent that the Legislative Council approve the minutes dated May 12, 2021, and May 14, 2021, as presented.

CHAIR HANNAN, hearing no objections, approved the minutes and introduced the first item of business.

IV. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

A. Legal Services Westlaw Contract

[1:16:22 PM](#)

VICE-CHAIR REINBOLD moved that Legislative Council approve a five-year contract in the amount of \$226,495.60 with West Publishing Corporation to provide online legal research services from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2026, at an average annual cost of \$45,299.12.

CHAIR HANNAN objected for the purposes of discussion and asked Megan Wallace, Director of Legal Services for the Legislative Affairs Agency (LAA), to speak to this item and take any questions.

MEGAN WALLACE stated her name and position for the record and described a packet that each Council Member was given detailing the contract. She repeated the total amount of the 5-year contract as well as the annual average and said that these research services were something that the Legal Services department already used, and this was just a new contract carrying those services forward. She stated this was not a new item, it was one that was budgeted and provided for. The current contract was \$3,085 per month, so the new contract would show a price increase, but Legal Services was grandfathered in with only a one percent increase over the five-year contract period. She said their representative from Westlaw explained that the company would be switching to new a legal research platform called Westlaw Edge; Ms. Wallace and some of her staff had test-driven Westlaw Edge and were optimistic about the new features provided. She stated that Legal Services had taken on more litigation in the past few years than they had over the past decade or so, so some of these features would be imperative to her office going forward, particularly in litigation research. These research tools, she said, were used by her attorneys daily to ensure they were giving sound, up-to-date legal advice. She said she would be happy to take any questions, but strongly recommended Legislative Council approve the continuation of this service.

REPRESENTATIVE CLAMAN asked if Legal Services had unlimited use of the Westlaw database under this contract or if it was paid based on use.

MS. WALLACE confirmed that under this contract, Legal Services was not paying "per use" or "per search," it was indeed unlimited access.

REPRESENTATIVE CLAMAN asked if that included downloads, etc.

MS. WALLACE said it did.

REPRESENTATIVE CLAMAN mentioned that some offices had access to Lexis or Westlaw legal research tools and asked if those were separate and independent from this contract that Legal Services used.

MS. WALLACE said she was not sure specifically; some of that access might be part of this contract and she could speak with LAA's Research Librarian for clarification. CHAIR HANNAN, seeing no other members seeking the floor, removed her objection and requested a roll call vote.

[1:21:32 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken.

YEAS: Representatives Claman, Edgmon, Foster, Hannan, Stutes, Tuck; Senators Bishop, Reinbold.

NAYS: None.

The motion passed 8-0.

B. Sublease Renewal - Utqiagvik Office Space

[1:22:22 PM](#)

VICE CHAIR REINBOLD moved that Legislative Council approve Renewal Number 3 of the sublease for Utqiagvik office space in an amount of \$35,457.96.

CHAIR HANNAN objected for the purposes of discussion and introduced LAA's Procurement Officer, JC Kestel, to speak on the sublease renewal.

JC KESTEL said his name and position for the record. He said the sublease agreement the Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc. and the Legislative Affairs Agency for office space in Utqiagvik, Alaska, was set to expire on December 31, 2021. There was one renewal option remaining on the sublease agreement, for the period of January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022. He continued and said if Legislative Council approved Renewal Number 3, this would leave no further sublease renewals available. The Renewal period exceeds \$35,000 in one fiscal year; therefore, he said, Legislative Council's approval was required. He offered to take any questions.

CHAIR HANNAN noted that Senate President Micciche had joined the Council at 1:25 pm and then asked if members had any questions or concerns surrounding the Utqiagvik sublease renewal. Seeing and hearing none, she removed her objection and requested a roll call vote.

[1:24:37 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken.

YEAS: Representatives Claman, Edgmon, Foster, Hannan, Stutes, Tuck; Senators Bishop, Reinbold.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINED: Senate President Micciche.

The motion was approved with 8 yeas and 0 nays.

SENATE PRESIDENT MICCICHE apologized to the Chair for being late and abstaining. He explained he did not have time to review the issue and was meeting with the governor.

CHAIR HANNAN accepted his apology and called for a motion to enter Executive Session.

V. ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE BUSINESS - EXECUTIVE SESSION
A. RFP 648 - Sitka Office Space

[1:26:01 PM](#)

VICE CHAIR REINBOLD moved that Legislative Council go into Executive Session under Uniform Rule 22(B)(1), discussion of matters, the immediate knowledge of which would adversely affect the finances of a government unit and 22(B)(3), discussion of a matter that may, by law, be required to be confidential. The following individuals may remain in the room or on-line for the entirety of the executive session: Jessica Geary, JC Kestel, Santé Lesh, Megan Wallace, Helen Phillips, Jodie Murdock, Bree Wylie, any Legislators not on Legislative Council, and any staff of Legislative Council members.

[1:26:42 PM](#)

Council went into Executive Session.

[1:32:50 PM](#)

Council came out of Executive Session.

CHAIR HANNAN requested a roll call vote to confirm the Council had a quorum.

Present at the call were: Representatives Claman, Edgmon, Foster, Hannan, Stutes, Tuck; Senators Bishop, Micciche, Reinbold.

Nine members present.

[1:33:49 PM](#)

VICE CHAIR REINBOLD moved that the Legislative Council approve the award of RFP 648 for Sitka office space to Sitka Totem Hotel, LLC for a five-year lease and five optional one-year renewals.

CHAIR HANNAN asked Mr. Kestel for a summary of the actions surrounding this RFP.

MR. KESTEL said LAA issued RFP 648 to obtain office space in the Sitka area for Senator Stedman and Representative Kreiss-Tomkins, including the Sitka LIO. He said RFP 648 closed on October 11, 2021, and only one proposal was received. He continued that the proposal was evaluated to make sure that it met the minimum requirements of the RFP and the best interests of the Legislative offices in Sitka and the Agency. He said LAA recommended the awarding of RFP 648 to the Sitka Totem Hotel, LLC and that he would be happy to answer any questions.

SENATE PRESIDENT MICCICHE said for the record that while members were seeing lease costs go up somewhat dramatically in other areas within the economy of the state, this lease was only increasing forty-six cents per square foot. Instead of adding \$2,600 annually for janitorial expenses, though this lease did have a slight increase of about \$4,000 a year, when members included the janitorial costs, he believed it was in line with market value and was happy to support the RFP.

CHAIR HANNAN, seeing and hearing no further questions or comments, asked for a roll call vote.

[1:35:59 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken.

YEAS: Representatives Claman, Edgmon, Foster, Hannan, Stutes, Tuck; Senators Bishop, Micciche, Reinbold.

NAYS: None.

The motion was approved with 9 yeas and 0 nays.

VI. ADJOURN

[1:36:44 PM](#)

CHAIR HANNAN said with nothing further to come before Council, the meeting is adjourned.